

# **Town of Eastham Forest Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**May 18, 2021**

Members present: Michael Harnett-Chair, Henry Lind, Saul Fisher, Janet Benjamins

1651 Friends chair: Steve Gulrich

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 Minutes were approved unanimously with minor changes

## **1651 Friends Report :**

13 volunteers planted 20 High bush Blueberry with a mixture of composted cow manure and top soil. A 3 foot high rabbit proof fence was installed around each planting. A watering system was created to provide 3 gallons of water twice a week to each planting for the first few weeks. Volunteers are being enlisted to continue watering the blueberries, huckleberry, black cherry and scarlet oaks plantings at least once a week for the rest of the summer season.

The Huckleberry plantings from this spring are looking good with no losses. Two black cherries were lost and one scarlet oak planting has been lost.

A discussion ensued to determine if the flowering blueberries should be deflowered to shunt the plant energy away from fruit production this year and into plant growth. It was determined to not deflower the blueberries.

We are not sure if Windmill weekend will happen this year but if it does the friends are prepared to set up a booth.

## **Mapping.**

Henry added the new blueberries to the Wiley Park map.

Henry is looking into using ESRI software, a licensed mapping product superior to the free software he has been using. The town has a license, and Paul Lagg the town planner has told Henry that mapping of Wiley Park fits within the town's licensing agreement and Henry can use the ESRI software. The downside is that the software has a steep learning curve, but Debbie Cohen a Planning Department employee has been trained and may be willing to train Henry during her off hours. Henry will contact her to see if she is willing to train him and what her hourly rate will be.

### Next Plantings

It was noted that our current list of species all seem to require watering.

Several earlier plantings, ink berry and shad have all died. We are not sure if they died because of a lack of water or because of browsing or a combination of both. These planting occurred before we began the watering and fencing program. A watering and fencing element needs to be considered in future planting.

It was decided to hold off the fall planting decision until we could see how dry the summer season will be.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on August 17<sup>th</sup>